



# LANDSCAPE **matters**

- 1 Our professional identity** ■ Brodie McAllister
- 2 How much will we value green spaces post Covid?** ■ Tony Edwards
- 3 The English countryside after leaving the European Union** ■ Merrick Denton-Thompson
- 4 An international agenda** ■ Lionel Fanshawe
- 5 The sustainable development agenda**  
■ Rhys Jones
- 6 JFK memorial by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe**  
■ Edward Hutchison
- 7 Book review**
- 8 Letters**
- 9 Calendar**

VOLUME 1 JANUARY 2021

Front cover drawing by Edward Hutchison

The magnificent water worn boulders of the Muthirppurhayar river in Munnar Kerala, India, betray the high environmental cost of power and electricity. The hydroelectric dam upstream was built by the British in 1940.

# LANDSCAPE **matters**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our quarterly electronic magazine. Through a small group of articles, we touch on topics not fully aired and resolved elsewhere connected with periodic online debates. This issue re-ignites the debate on the need for a magazine to offer something new and for the profession to examine its identity. Topically, it touches on the way forward for our countryside and the value of green space; illustrates the importance of observational drawing; and the international and humanitarian agendas. We have had a debate on our higher education and future ones are planned on, among others, tree cover strategies and landscape and visual guidelines.

*Please contribute comments and ideas for articles to [landscapemattersmag@gmail.com](mailto:landscapemattersmag@gmail.com) and register an interest for our debates on [landscapemattersdebates@gmail.com](mailto:landscapemattersdebates@gmail.com)*

*Submitted work needs to be:*

- themed rather than primarily self promotional
- referenced
- and contribute to the stated objectives

Concept : Edward Hutchison

Editors : Brodie McAllister

Edward Hutchison

Graphic Design : Susan Scott

*Disclaimer: The authors are responsible for the accuracy of articles and the views expressed; copyright of material rests with the authors and those they credit*



**The objectives of the periodical are to:**

- be an ongoing record that focuses on what matters to all the branches of the landscape profession
- assist in the promotion, the study and general advancement of the art and science of well designed landscape strategies, and to serve as a medium of friendly intercourse between the members of the profession and others practising or interested
- encourage a productive network of mutual help through this intellectual discussion, sharing of knowledge, experience and solutions in order to progress our collective agendas
- encourage young professionals
- appeal to a wider audience beyond the landscape profession

*this is achieved by:*

- linking to online debates we organise
- concentrating on the outward facing

*and by being:*

- open to a wide range of contributor's suggestions, rather than over controlled editing or bias
- written in accessible descriptions and analysis and distributed beyond the current landscape readership
- independent of any corporate ties

*and through:*

- periodic physical social gatherings
- not duplicating existing publications

# 1.

## ■ Our professional identity

Brodie McAllister



**I'D LIKE TO TALK** about the USP of *Landscape Matters*.

It embraces all branches of the landscape profession. While the Landscape Institute deals with bringing together current design issues and elements, there is room to debate painterly, original, and historic perceptions. We are fascinated by our profession's poetic and cultural links and see them as reaching back to primitive art and the lyricism of the eighteenth century and revolutionary 20th century modernism. Our central focus is on WHAT COMES NEXT.

Architects often produce overly rigid designs; we thrive on the ephemeral, the pragmatic and the inspirational. In a phrase borrowed from Emilio Ambasz, an architect, we care for the 'poetics of the pragmatic'. Yet the pragmatic without the poetic is often our principal task: a tick box process about problem solving, with a list growing by the minute as the world's problems proliferate. Often, the public does not understand this role. This is partly because of the language we choose for communication, our timidity and not being good at differentiating ourselves from others taking on similar roles. To them, gardens can be created by anyone, roads are built by teams they rarely see, parks are left over space with trees for the use of dogs and lawns on which to exercise gang mowers. The rest is God's work, which humans have often laid out with little sense of composition or orchestration. This is as true of the countryside and former wilderness as it is of urban areas.

If we fail to take an ambitious, creative and intellectual approach, we will fall by the wayside. Other professions, including architects, will extend their roles, applying seemingly strong concepts but which lack conceptual and technical depth. Landscape professionals risk becoming technical facilitators instead of collaborators. But if we grasp the conceptual challenge, other professions and the public will



Dust to Dust, Westonbirt Festival of the Garden. Because landscape architecture can be art. Exploring the symbolism of green burial, the cycle of life- with a reference to Land Art movement buried structures.

value us more. It is clear from the Landscape Institute Awards that we have the abilities. But we are kidding ourselves if we think we have made our profession a 'household name'.

Have we lost the magic, drifting away from a professional delight in imagination? Has our once-broad vision become narrow? The modern movement founded decisions on practical functions. We now see that this was too simplistic- despite the sometimes inspiring legacy of that movement. We have seen a revival in the spiritual, mythical and ritualistic concerns. I associate the spiritual with art and meaning. But, landscape architects can be puzzled by art: they too often think of it as objects, which can enliven or decorate space and need careful siting. This is a piecemeal approach compared to designers who, like Burle Marx and Le Corbusier, were also Cubist painters and architects; or architect Steven Holl, who is inspired by music. For me, the modernist who led in combining design with the spiritual and ritualistic was Luis Barragan.

Should we see current landscape architecture as 'post-modern'? I have an equal distrust of the term and of the disjointed eclecticism of 'post-modern architecture'. What I admire about Geoffrey Jellicoe is the seriousness and playfulness of his interest in ideas, myths and the art of his time. History has taught us that in every era, myth is more real and influential in the mind than fact. Art and science, both equally important, share a child-like wonder of the known and unknown.

Do we talk too little about art in our offices and university programmes? Did we fail to notice that Land Art was often more captivating than our 'problem solving' approach, leaving landscape art to artists- and to Charles Jencks? Could our contribution to 'saving the planet' be more effective if we concentrated more on the language of culture and narrative? When people are emotionally attached, you earn a place on their wish list.



# 2

## How much will we value greenspaces post Covid?

Tony Edwards

**IN THE MIDDLE OF** the current pandemic or 'plague', it is salutary to reflect on the value of the landscape to offer comfort and joy. As stated on the UK Government website, we can use public outdoor places which include:

- parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests
- public gardens (whether or not you pay to enter them)
- the grounds of a heritage site
- playgrounds

Almost four hundred years ago Charles 1st moved his court out of London to escape the plague and created Richmond Park. The health properties of open space and exercise were both a comfort and protection.

In 1751 Princess Amelia tried to block public access to the park, a battle she lost in 1758. An Act of Parliament in 1872 gave full public rights. In an act of 1871 Wimbledon Common was protected from enclosure and public access guaranteed. Today it has a management budget of approx. £1m, mainly secured from a supplemental rate on properties within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of the common.

Despite the formalities granting free public access to spaces being only 12 months apart, the two spaces have entirely different funding models. A century before, some pleasure gardens attracted fee paying visitors, such as Vauxhall Gardens open from May to September with a 1s entrance fee and Ranelagh Gardens with an entrance fee of 2s 6d with refreshments included.

Different public spaces and different funding models have continued to develop with diverse examples of pocket parks, local parks, national parks, and wildlife areas created as part of factors such as planning consents, and S106 agreements.

In 2005 CABE produced the report Physical Capital- how great places boost public value. CABE defined this as the potential value - financial, social and cultural - of the built environment which included parks, squares and public art. There seems no lack of interest in how environmental value is created.

In 2021 will society redefine the value of green spaces at different scales for health and welfare? The Parks Action Group (PAG), launched in response to a Government Select Committee report on parks and open spaces, produced a report in June 2020 called Making Parks Count setting out their social, economic and environmental returns.

'Parks in England deliver over £6.6bn of health, climate change and environmental benefits each year including £2.2bn in avoided health costs alone and are worth £140 per year to each urban resident. For every £1 spent on parks in England an estimated £7 in additional value for health and wellbeing and the environment is generated'.

This makes a case for the benefits of investment in Green Spaces as part of a post Covid Green Recovery. The benefits, for mankind in general to the specific, that green spaces provide are wide and diverse. This takes us to the heart of the problem. With so many diverse benefits, how should the costs be shared between the beneficiaries? The PAG has identified some of the Government departments who might be involved.

'The Parks Action Group's recommendations will be implemented through a cross-government group bringing together the relevant government departments, including:

- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Department of Health (DH)
- Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)
- Home Office (HO)
- Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)'

It is unclear how this will be done, for most urban parks and green spaces are under the control of local authorities. In a



post pandemic future, with a loss of income from empty properties and diverse open space events, they will be under extreme financial pressure. Will the Treasury provide them with ring fenced park management funding on behalf of various Government departments? Will we see a greater promotion of funding models with free access to open spaces but with fee paying elements? Are we doing enough to find imaginative funding solutions?

Some parks already enjoy a very different approach. The Royal Parks Ltd charity, registered in 2017, is in the envious position of having an income of £73,161,000 and an expenditure of £68,609,000 (2020 Accounts). Urban Green Newcastle is an independent charity responsible for the management and upkeep of the city's 33 parks and 61 allotment sites.

Tapping into the value of properties adjoining parks presents the challenge of using these enhanced values as a basis for a sustainable revenue stream for their upkeep. Ideally, such a proposal would need to be created at the same time as the park. In New York, according to estimates produced by the Friends of the High Line, the park would increase the city's tax revenues by \$250 million over 20 years due to increased real estate value.

There is a need for a formula by which properties which enjoy a premium due to proximity to open space contribute to the management of the open space from which they derive financial benefit. Paying higher contributions to local authorities due to tax banding is not sufficiently linked to investment in park management. However, in many areas outside London, there is very little scope for bringing in commercial income.

With a need for economic sustainability, new and existing parks could be reassessed to determine the scope for directly generated returns. This will directly affect both design briefs for new parks and management strategies for existing parks. However, if the community cannot control access to an open space, will they want to fund it? Landscape management is about balance between competing pressures and people. What is most needed is the keeping in place of good parks managers and maintenance of standards.

Better parks, better tree planting and better practice is critical. In a USA study trees that were planted in adequate loam soil



had 300 times more leaves and were 1.7 times taller than trees in compacted ground. In Washington the average street tree life span is only 13 years. The loss rate for UK trees is approximately 24% in highways and at the point of sale. The landscape profession must set higher standards of delivery and management.

There is clearly a case for an agreed financial settlement for park funding as already set out. The UK Charter for Parks, in which the Landscape Institute is not a founding member, has clear goals:

### **The Charter for Parks**

- Celebrate the central role well-run parks play in our neighbourhoods for all sections of our communities
- Recognise the right of every citizen to have access within walking distance to a good quality public green space
- Endorse a legal duty for all public green space to be managed to a good standard
- Embed effective protection from inappropriate development or use, or loss of any part of our parks
- Ensure adequate long-term resources for ongoing maintenance, management and improvements
- Encourage and enable community involvement and empowerment of local people and park users

The Open Spaces Society has also called on Government to Introduce a national plan for open spaces, with a national standard for the amount of green space and ring-fenced funding which will secure good quality spaces close to people's homes; and to place a duty on local authorities to ensure that everyone can enjoy good quality, well-maintained and safe open space within 300 metres of their homes.

As Past LI President Merrick Denton-Thompson said at the LI Landscape Management Leadership Forum in 2017: 'It is my view that the Landscape Institute should be inclusive in attracting all the professional skills that determine our landscapes today. Some of the most profound changes to the landscape are not through design, but through a myriad of day-to-day management decisions often driven by policies unrelated to design and construction.'



# 3

## ■ The English countryside after leaving the European Union

Merrick Denton-Thompson



**WE ARE VERY LUCKY** that the UK planning system has sustained the definition between town and country, but it is a system under constant attack. Despite concerns about the environmental consequences of leaving the EU, few can argue against the idea that having devolved our responsibilities for the management of land to Brussels by far the greatest damage to the environment has been caused by agriculture. The consequences have been largely hidden from our urban based populations and the full realisation of these are still unfolding: the effects of a diffuse pollution on our aquifers, rivers and the sea, the devastating loss of biodiversity, including the unintended consequences of the full range of pesticide and their impact on the health of our soils.

The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is working hard on transforming the way the public sector works with the farming community to place food production on a more sustainable basis.

There will be a new emphasis given to land and natural resource management. This involves the disciplines connected with conserving Natural Capital with the aim of cleaner water and air, restored microbial health of soils and transforming the biological health of landscapes through nature recovery. Added to these is the need to build far greater resilience in the landscape, further conserve the historic environment, modernise access for health and wellbeing and sustain the beauty and distinctive variations in landscape character.

Through the EU's Common Agricultural Policy the public invested approximately £3.5 billion in supporting the farming community but for many the uncertainty now is causing real alarm. For large sectors within the industry up to 60% of profits originate from that public investment. Added to this uncertainty is the opaque ramifications of the fine detail yet to be finalised within the trade deal and how that will affect the

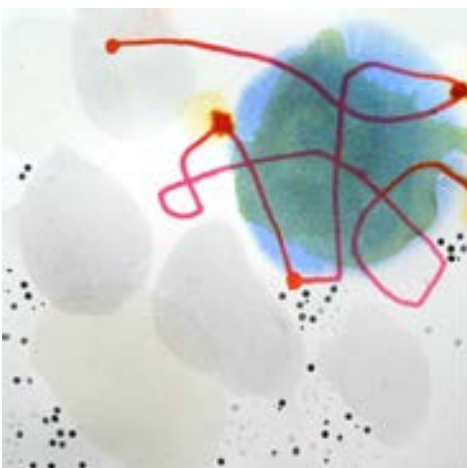
market. The Government gave an undertaking to sustain the level of public investment through the period of transition but refocus investment from farm subsidies to a 'public goods for public money' basis. It has taken time for the farming community to appreciate that the 'public goods' are strategic and in its interests as well, such as building resilience and improving soil health.

However, the constant threat of disallowance has been the cause of conflict between private farmers and the Rural Payment's Agency – there is very little trust left in the system. Disallowance describes the process where the UK recovers payments made to farmers from the EU; there have been occasions when the EU has rejected retro-spective payments to the UK thereby leaving very large holes in spending plans– giving more power to accountants! Despite this, leaving the EU creates a wonderful opportunity to transform the culture in regard to the relationship between the industry and the public sector.

DEFRA is in the process of designing the new system of support for the farming industry to come into force in 2024. The Department is committed to ensuring the design is developed collaboratively with the industry, accepting the principle of transition and the fact that we will not get it right on day one, with monitoring and refinement built in. The new Environmental Land Management system will have three components. The first is the Sustainable Farming Incentive, details of which are promised in June 2021, which will focus on environmentally sustainable land management actions. The second will be Local Nature Recovery and the third will focus on Landscape Recovery at a large scale – bespoke agreements to support long term land use changes, including rewilding where appropriate. DEFRA is undertaking the design of the new system through a very large Test and Trial research and development project, having invited responses from across the country from inside and outside the farming industry. We must applaud this inclusive approach to scheme design.

Movements in soil

Watercolour by Edward Hutchison



The Landscape Profession is contributing to this process in many ways, including preparing Model Estate Management Plans and landscape scale spatial mapping of the corporate agenda to help the industry align business planning with the public goods agenda.

# 4

## ■ An international agenda

Lionel Fanshawe



**THE IDEA THAT** the UK landscape profession should not be interested in the profession globally is as perverse to me as suggesting the environmental crisis is something that can be solved within our shores. As landscape professionals, we should by definition cross boundaries. It has been of huge concern to me in recent years that collectively we appear to have so little in the way of joined up thinking on international issues. Our connections overseas are there, whether we acknowledge it or not.

I was aware that there was resistance in previous decades at Institute level to concentrating resources on wider areas but this did not make sense to me: there is a need to join the international community in the environmental agenda and advocacy of the landscape profession but also the fact that so many UK offices work abroad and 10 percent of our membership lives and works overseas. As Brodie McAllister, my fellow proposer of the re-institution of the international working group articulated, 'while we juggle our resources as an institute to pay for the critical structures, these issues at the international and global scale are not window dressing'.

When a Landscape Institute (LI) presidential visit took place to China with seemingly no reference to the last time this had happened a decade before, it became evident that the threads of continuity had been lost and it was time for the re-establishment of a working group. Happily, the LI leadership was prepared to meet to discuss this and finally we have the beginnings of one – it was good to have an introductory webinar this summer that included contributors live from China and India. This is however 3 years on, and it really is time to get this fully underway in 2021.

Abu Dhabi cultural centre by our Dubai office of The Terra Firma Consultancy, displaying an appropriate response to location in the use of shade structures and low water demand (largely native) planting.



If all of us do a bit, so much more can be achieved. I believe that with enough of us contributing, the international agenda of our profession need not be limited in ambition. We should be connecting at all levels.

Brodie and I have been thrilled to be a part of the formation of the Humanitarian Landscape Collective which Rhys Jones will touch on in this magazine. This is most certainly something that any International Working Group should embrace. I am also very pleased to have been asked to be the LI representative to the UK Built Environment Advisory Group for the FCO Global Future Cities Programme. This will be a collaboration with other UK professional organisation representatives to advise middle-income developing cities in building capacity and effective solutions for a sustainable future. Again, I can see consulting a wider LI International Working Group will give much needed advice.

There are existing mechanisms in place with the International Federation of Landscape Architects and the professional Landscape bodies in individual countries but also worldwide academic networks, environmental groups, political affiliations such as the Commonwealth and indeed the United Nations. While I can fully understand the argument to limit activity to the achievable and that targeted ambitions may well have to be the way forward, I feel the first tasks of the LI Working Group should be to discuss the broadest remits and start building an accessible network for exchange of ideas and information. The LI has of course done much to address some of these things in its recent work on ethics and is looked to by many overseas Institutes as an exemplar in much of what it does. I know some leaders within our Institute are also keen to push this forward, whilst there are one or two detractors. An international dimension in the LI Awards is one example of progress. However, in my opinion, we need to move faster on delegating to those interested and have much to do if we are to receive the benefit from engaging our home membership with outward facing overseas relationships.



# 5. ■ The sustainable development agenda

Rhys Jones



Rhys Jones is a Landscape Architect at LUC, studying MSc Environment & Sustainable Development at UCL, and co-founder of the HLC.

**LIONEL HAS SET OUT** the reasons for an international agenda and I'd like to go one step further and make the case for the sustainable development agenda. This is about using our skillset to help those who are more vulnerable, whether they live in an informal settlement, a refugee camp, or on the brink of being displaced by the effects of climate change. This is linked to the 'humanitarian agenda', but we must be aware of what the difference is and why it matters.

To someone working within an NGO like Oxfam or in policy at DfID, humanitarian aid means specifically the life-saving emergency response after a disaster (think Red Cross volunteers offering life vests to refugees in the Mediterranean). It's reactive and immediate. Sustainable development is the long-term resilience-building effort that rebuilds communities after a disaster working to prevent them happening in the first place. It seeks to reduce inequalities and protect the planet in a holistic manner- a 'stitch in time...' Landscape designers are naturally suited to this work, yet I have yet to see an example of landscape architecture used effectively in humanitarian work. Despite this, I still use the term 'humanitarian' as it's one that people instantly 'get.' I'd like to present 3 key reasons why the Sustainable Development agenda matters to you:

## **1. It's not necessarily the same as the international agenda.**

Sustainable development applies just as much at home as it does overseas. There are deep inequalities in the UK as shown by the map of Index of Multiple Deprivation in North-West London. These inequalities manifest in issues such as food insecurity and health problems amongst more deprived populations – the pandemic has shone a harsh light on this. Landscape can be a tool in reducing these inequalities which (as the map shows) could be a matter of helping those who live on the opposite street.



Above: Bank of the River Nairobi before restoration.

Below: The same river bank after restoration, creating a healthier habitat and public park for the Korogocho residents.

**2. The more we engage with it, the more we realise there is to learn.** At the risk of exiling myself from the landscape architecture community, I'd say that some of the best examples of landscape architecture I've seen are not from 'landscape architects', such as Professor Kelly Shannon's work in devising a climate-proof masterplan for the Mekong Delta in Vietnam or Catalytic Action's work in co-creating urban spaces that alleviate tensions between refugees and host communities in Lebanon. Community organisations often create some of the most ingenious and democratic ways of creating public space, such as Maz-ingira Yetu (Swahili for 'our environment') who combine ecosystem restoration with sanitation & hygiene improvements for the residents of informal settlements in Nairobi. One of their impact projects is to rehabilitate the river flowing through the Korogocho settlement, which is currently used to dump waste, through training local volunteers, educating the community and creating a public park. It's landscape design at its finest, improving the health of those who live nearby and the ecosystem on which they depend.

**3. If you're a 'big picture' kind of person, then this is about as big as it gets.** This agenda is about addressing the global challenges of our time, which requires a global approach- and the landscape is a key solution. It can protect against disasters, heal people physically and mentally, feed the hungry, regenerate the planet, and be an arena for people to live within equally- if only society knew how to use it.

I believe there is plenty of 'will' to engage with this agenda within the landscape profession; it's just a question of forming a strategy and freeing up capacity. We're working to answer this at the Humanitarian Landscape Collective (HLC).



Map of Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 in South Hampstead & Marylebone, 2020



# 6

JFK memorial by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe

## ■ understanding a design through drawing on site

Edward Hutchison



**THE DESIGN OF** a landscape is an intricate and interlocking process. In my experience, invaluable lessons can be learnt through making a drawing, en plein air, of a sophisticated man-made landscape scheme. One is able in part to enter into the mind of the original designer, to virtually experience a one-to-one tutorial with a master designer. The additional time spent drawing on site, as opposed to only taking photographs, is rewarded many times over; the knowledge gleaned through close analysis and concentration becomes deep and long lasting.

The John F Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede is considered one of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's masterworks. It is a landscape which deserves and demands to be taken at a slow pace. I spent four hours on site making six coloured drawings which allowed me to appreciate the extraordinarily understated and elegant power of the design, inspired by his recent visit to the Zen gardens in Japan.

The site of the Thames Valley River Terrace is very distinctive: it is a water meadow; a flat horizontal plane bounded on one side by the river and on the other by a low hill.

Runnymede has such powerful historical connotations that it is impossible to arrive without preconceived ideas of what the site might be like. Sir Edwin Lutyens emphasised the site in a typically architectural and formal way by framing both ends with a pair of beautiful kiosks and in memory to an industrialist. (1)

In stark contrast, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's memorial to an American President is completely invisible: he allows the surroundings and its genius loci to 'do all the talking' – to such an extent that a visitor seeking the site could be forgiven for thinking he was in the wrong place.

The memorial to JFK is an experience of passing through the landscape in the hands of a master and as such is pure landscape design. For a lot of the time there is really not much to see or to photograph but, once I was sitting drawing, his ideas become increasingly evident. Walking unhurriedly through a meadow is a quintessentially English activity; it allows time to think or talk to friends about one's thoughts. So starts the journey in such a rural English context to the monument on foot: to enjoy the light from the relatively large

Drawings by Edward Hutchison

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



sky, perhaps to notice the redness of the Hereford cattle against the green grass of the valley, to consider an American President keen on informality. (2)

The field was unprepared for the number of visitors that came in the early days and the grass by the hedgerow gate turned to mud. Jellicoe either took a risk in keeping the path as simple mown grass (the cheaper option) or simply did not think that this would matter if it failed.

Sadly Jellicoe's purity of concept has been severely compromised by the siting of a large piece of artwork in the water meadow: this midpoint distraction dilutes the unhampered journey – perhaps one day it will be relocated. Passing through the gate into the oak wood, the mood changes and becomes more sombre and confined.

The carefully manicured moss gardens, influenced by the Zen gardens at Ryoanji, are in contrast to a traditional English woodland and Jellicoe uses the existing topography to start the path climbing upwards through the trees. Designed in 1964, when accessibility was not so regulated, the small granite setts of random sizes making up the path is the first hint of a designer at work. The concept that the setts represent the progress of pilgrims would – in my opinion – be lost on the majority of visitors, but not the surprise of finding such a sophisticated paving material in rural woodland. The disparate nature of the paving makes them awkward to walk on and most people walk to the side of the official path, onto a new overspill series of steps made of conventionally laid uniform cobbles. As a designer, I recognised that despite Jellicoe's success and maturity, he was still experimenting and prepared to take risks.



The siting of the monument is a brilliant balance of magic, simplicity and theatre. Walking upwards through the wood, one's eyes become adjusted to the shade cast by the trees. Unexpectedly, one turns a corner to be shocked by the sight of a huge block of bright white Portland Stone sitting in a clearing. This is a true moment of realisation of the brilliance of landscape design. Jellicoe still makes nature and trees dominant in the experience: a large low dark branch (vital to the composition along with the memorial stone) blocks the route, forcing a detour. (3)

It is remarkable that he was prepared to risk so much for the well-being of one tree's branch (much smaller in 1960), and then persuade the client of the importance of his decision. (4) The carved lettering in the stone creates a beautiful range of texture- by Alan Collins who trained at the Royal College of Art. The extreme simplicity and elegance of the monument sits harmoniously with the visual complexity of the woodland- a different approach to most of the work from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which engages nature in a far more formal manner.

Unfortunately, the American Red Oak he planted does not look very healthy.

Jellicoe persuaded his client that this should not be the end of the journey / pilgrimage. People should be encouraged to reflect further on the significance of the memorial and our special relationship with America, and to aid this two stone bench Seats of Contemplation overlook the surrounding countryside and the Thames. (5)

The design for this 'post monument stage' is orthogonal, formal and massive, and the paving language of huge Portland stone slabs leading to the lookout seats imply a mood of reflection through their siting and view over the Thames Valley. (6)



6.

6.

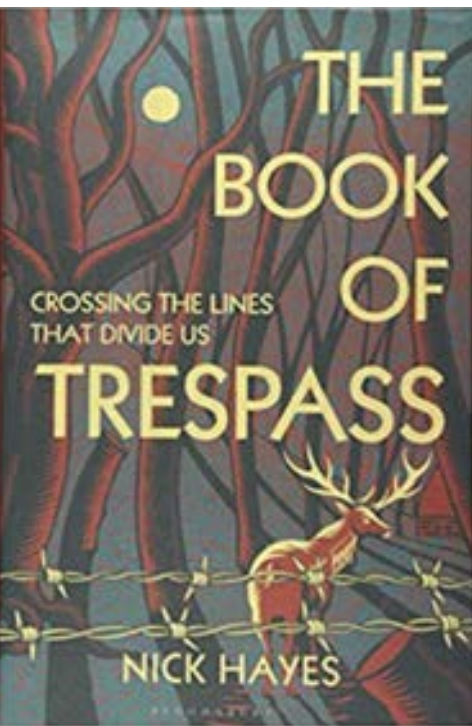
Ideally the route should lead on further. The extension to the Camino de Fisterra ends at the sea – 'the end of the world' – so retracing one's footsteps at the JFK Memorial down through the wood and across the water meadow, meeting new visitors on the way, is a slight anti-climax.

Overall, the designer's intelligence and experimental humility is powerful, yet the subtle and understated result is easy to miss – not that this is a criticism that it should 'shout' louder. It is a wonderful example how our profession is unique in being able to create magic through our understanding and sensitivity to landscape.

7.

Nick Hayes, **The Book of Trespass: Crossing the Lines that Divide Us**

Bloomsbury Publishing Ltd, 2020



This book will make you see landscapes differently. It is a meditation on the complex relationship between land, politics and power, describing how land ownership laws have divided up our spaces and places. Boundaries are marked by walls, fences and rivers- with a cult of exclusion. In England, the public has no access to 92% of our land and yet huge taxpayer subsidies go to landowners. One third of Britain is owned by the aristocracy and some estates are registered offshore to avoid tax.

Hayes argues that the root of social inequality lies in the inequality of access to land. He looks at grassroots community activism, and alternative ways of living and organising space. It is a passionate and thought-provoking book telling the story of exploration and exploitation and making a powerful case for change. It is essential reading for anyone who cares about how our country and countryside are run.

He describes the history of the distribution of land from Anglo Saxon times, through the Norman Conquest. There is the argument that the enclosure movement was a euphemism for privatisation; swathes of common land enabled the poor to live by hunting game, fishing and collecting nuts, berries and fuel from the wild before enclosure led to dispossession and poverty.

Not only land but people became possessions. A married woman and her land became her husband's property – continuing until the Married Women's Property Act, 1882. Wealthy landowners had acquired sugar plantations, using slave labour. Proceeds from slavery funded many of our big country houses and Capability Brown was employed to design their gardens as playgrounds of the rich.



The Kinder Scout trespassers preceded the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949, which led to the Definitive Map recording thin strips of land as rights of way. The Greenham Common women, the Sheffield Trees Against Action Group and Extinction Rebellion are other examples of community activism driving change. Despite foxhunting being banned in 2004, there are still 180 hunt packs. Each year, 35 million game birds are released for shooting, many on sensitive landscapes.

The final chapter sees land reform discussed. Successive governments have attempted to tax the uplift in land values associated with development as well as to fund local facilities through mechanisms such as the Community Infrastructure Levy. The 2017 Labour Party manifesto proposed replacing Council Tax and Business Rates with a Land Value Tax. In 2018, an all-party parliamentary group was formed to discuss whether a land tax would improve housing developments and stabilise house prices.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, in England, gave access to only 8% of our landscapes. Nick Hayes proposes that this be extended to include 336,000 acres of Crown Estates. In contrast, the Scottish Land Reform Act, 2003, introduced the right to roam and a community right to buy, enabling some local communities to protect landscapes by buying out absentee landlords. Hayes suggests that if Brexit is about 'taking back control' then it is time we did that for our land.

Throughout the book there are some tedious accounts of trespass on country estates: walking, camping, sketching and outdoor swimming excursions. However, in the face of land ownership and control being so linked, it is visionary in questioning whether our land laws are fit for purpose in terms of agendas such as equality, access to nature, climate change and housing. It sets the scene for debate on 'public money for public goods' as public access is included in the new Agriculture Act, which will influence our National Parks and wider countryside.

For anyone interested in landscape who may already be very aware of environmental, social and aesthetic considerations, this book stresses the relevance to us of land economics and political ideology.



Helen Tranter

## Education, practice and professionalism

'In a post pandemic world, which has changed many pre-conceptions, public and political focus is now moving to the big issues of climate change, and sustainability of species and habitats, including that of humanity. A sustainable future need not be unsightly. We can also plan well designed sustainable habitats produced by capable and well trained professionals. Where does this leave the role of landscape architecture, agriculture and garden design?

- Architects do not uniformly respect landscape architects the way they respect other design team members such as structural engineers who deal in absolutes of loads and bearing. Landscape architects appear to be in competition on design aspects of schemes with a similar set of design skills as architects. Plant knowledge is often the only skill architects feel they lack, and the dimension of time changing the landscape around their buildings.

- Landscape architects cannot expect respect from design teams- it must be earned. How will landscape education respond to the need for better qualified landscape professionals with a skill set fit for the 21st century? What should the course content include- contaminated soils in a post-industrial land, better technical skills in construction and calculation of structures and civil engineering, CGI visualisations, water management, business management and team working?

- Garden designers seem to have a much better public image (the public own gardens and not landscapes) with a better planting vocabulary and are increasingly seen as moving from one garden, to multiple gardens to larger schemes. Scale no longer differentiates garden design and landscape design.

There is a shared responsibility between education and practice to raise the skill set of landscape professionals. Students must leave universities having been extended in their capabilities by landscape courses. Practice is not an arm of the university and in a marketplace of fee competition there is little scope for practices to fill in any gaps in education. Practices must ensure they mentor and support new professionals in the realities of the real world outside of university, of planning consents, impact assessments, and business practice. Perhaps we need a new dialogue of what practice requires of education and what education can expect from practice to create the professional skills needed for survival as a profession in the 21st century'.

Tony Edwards



## Wild Britain - Land Sharing or Land Sparing

*published by the Daily Telegraph*

We all must applaud the Prime Minister's commitment to reversing the devastating biodiversity loss, both in this country and worldwide. However, promising to protect 30% of Britain falls far short of the 'all land' pledge in the Government's own 25 Year Environment Plan. For the last 45 years we have devolved responsibility for the way land is managed to Europe which has misled the general public into thinking that our farming system was in safe environmental hands.

- A high proportion of farming systems in this country remain very damaging to the environment - to the elements of life itself- polluting our water, polluting our air, destroying the microbial health of our soils and destroying the biological health of our landscapes. By harnessing the power of natural systems we can still secure the food we need and there are many farmers demonstrating this by aligning food production with the natural world.

- Land sharing must be the right strategy where all land and natural resources are managed sustainably. Of course, through the right trade conditions we can also secure the sustainability of farming systems across the globe.

Merrick Denton-Thompson OBE  
Past President of the Landscape Institute

Corriegorm  
Fearnan  
Aberfeldy  
Perthshire PH15 2PQ.

# 9.

## 01 / 2021

Calendar

### Turner's Modern World

Tate Britain exhibition / Until March 2021 [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

### Arctic culture and climate

The Citi exhibition / 22 October- 21 Feb 2021 [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

### Gardens Trust lecture series / Post-war designed landscapes

Fridays 10.30-12.00 noon [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

15 January / Karen Fitzsimon

Introduction – overview, legislation, relevance

22 January / Dr Luca Csepely-Knorr

Infrastructure & extractive industry landscapes

29 January / Oliver Rock

Parks - urban & rural, country parks + civic spaces

### Events run by the Landscape Institute [www.landscapeinstitute.org](http://www.landscapeinstitute.org)

LI Webinar: Placemaking Pioneers – Collaborating with Public Realm Artists

19 January / 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Hardscape : A session on creativity and collaboration within public realm

Health, Wellbeing and Place: How landscape delivers positive change / 3-day online LI CPD conference

27 January / 9:00 am and 29 January / 1:00 pm

## 02 / 2021

### Gardens Trust lecture series / Post-war designed landscapes

Fridays 10.30-12.00 noon [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

5 February / Karen Fitzsimon

Commercial landscapes - business parks, factories, trade fairs

12 February / Annabel Downs

Memorial landscapes - cemeteries, crematoria, commemorative landscapes

19 February / Dr Luca Csepely-Knorr & Karen Fitzsimon

Housing landscapes - public & private inc. new towns

26 February / Deborah Evans

Gardens - public & private (inc. art galleries)

### Events run by the Landscape Institute [www.landscapeinstitute.org](http://www.landscapeinstitute.org)

LI Webinar: Technology, People & Place

2 February / 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Utilising tech. to engage people across generations

Thinking with Ears: Soundscapes

11 February / 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

How can we design with sound? Create quiet spaces?

The Landscape of Outdoor Learning – A response to the 1140h EY Expansions

17 February / 12:00 pm-1:30 pm

Nature based playgrounds in Early Years outdoor learning & child development

## 03 / 2021

### Gardens Trust lecture series / Post-war designed landscapes

Fridays 10.30-12.00 noon [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

2 March / Hal Moggridge

University landscapes

## 04 / 2021

### Spring & Orchid Show / RHS Hyde Hall

9-11 April [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

### Urban wigwam

Brodie McAllister

Competition idea  
(pencil drawing) for site  
above the Tube station  
entrance, Waterloo, London.  
A coffered volcanic style  
cone, because we need  
more primitive symbol  
reintroduced into cities.

